Membership of the Society opens up a host of potential activities and opportunities to become active within the Society. As a Member, you are entitled to free admission to all of the Public Lectures and Torquay Museum itself. You will also be entitled to join a wide variety of other Society groups, including Geology, Archaeology and Astronomy, Local History, Zoology and Ornithology, Botany, Literature and the Arts, and the Friday Rambles Group.

The Museum Society membership year runs from October until the following September. Individual membership is £60 per annum and joint membership is £100 per annum. Pick up a Membership form from Torquay Museum or download it from the Museum’s website.

There are two Public Lecture Seasons each year: the Autumn/Winter Season which runs from early October until January, and the Spring Season which runs from January until mid-April. Lectures take place twice weekly, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 10.45am – 12noon. Admission is free to Museum Society Members, but is also open to members of the public for an admission cost of £5 per lecture, payable on the door.

Throughout the summer months the Society hosts informal gatherings – conversazione – at which Members enjoy shorts talks, discussion and light refreshments. The hallmark of the conversazione is informality and variety.

To identify who has organised a lecture, match the colour codes above with the colour-coded lecture information inside. The organisers welcome your comments and suggestions.

TORQUAY MUSEUM SOCIETY

BECOME A MEMBER

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By BUS: No 22 bus stops directly outside the Museum.

THE MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

A number of our lectures conclude with book-signings in the Museum Gift Shop. The shop carries books and many other items relating to current exhibitions and local history. We also sell an array of Agatha Christie merchandise, including DVDs, rare and out-of-print editions of her novels, and high-quality photographs taken from the Museum’s ‘Mistress of Crime’ archive.

THE MUSEUM CAFÉ

Open from 10am to 2pm on lecture days, the café serves hot and cold drinks, cakes and lunch. A great place to relax before and after lectures.

ACCESS

There are lifts, disabled facilities and step-free access throughout the Museum.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES

membership@torquaymuseum.org

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

TORQUAY MUSEUM SOCIETY

PUBLIC LECTURES

OCT 2022 - JAN 2023

The Physics of Piracy

See inside for further details of lecture on 7th December

© Dr Jonty Depp

Every Tuesday and Wednesday

10.45am - 12 noon

Torquay Museum Society Members

Free of Charge

Non-members £5, payable on the door

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TUESDAY 4th
BY A TORQUAY GRAVESIDE
Dr Kevin Dixon
Torquay’s early churchyards and later cemetery reflect the evolution of the town through changing attitudes to life and its leaving. Join us on a light-hearted 10,000-year journey through the Bay’s burial traditions.

WEDNESDAY 5th
HARP AND PENGUIN CONNOISSEUR
Dr Michael Rhodes
This bestselling author talks about how she finds inspiration, and why harps and penguins hold particular significance for her. The talk will include excerpts from her books, with Celtic harp accompaniment.

TUESDAY 11th
MEDIEVAL SPECTACLES AND THE ART OF THE CONNOISSEUR
Dr Michael Rhodes
The earliest spectacles and how people have attempted to explain their significance.

WEDNESDAY 12th
CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL CRISIS?
WHAT’S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT?
Dr Michael Rhodes
This highly acclaimed introductory talk about the ‘Climate and Ecological Crisis’ is for those who ‘get it’, but have done little or nothing about it, and for those who think they ‘get it’ but have done little or nothing about it.

TUESDAY 18th
AGATHA CHRISTIE’S ADVENTURES IN ARCHAEOLOGY
Emma Seaman
Asked to describe an Agatha Christie story, you’ll probably picture an affluent, rural and distinctively English setting - but her travels abroad and excavations at archaeological sites also provided the writer with intriguing settings and unusual plots. Local author Emma Seaman takes us on a tour of some of Christie’s more unusual novels.

WEDNESDAY 19th
A WOMAN OF NOBLE WIT – A NOVEL OF SIR WALTER RALEIGH
RALIEGH’S MOTHER
Rosemary Griggs
An introduction to Katherine Champernowne, a remarkable Devon woman who was the mother of famous sons. Author Rosemary Griggs will share some of her research into Katherine, her family and the tumultuous times they lived through, which gave birth to her novel.

TUESDAY 25th
SPACE FOR INSPIRATION
Dave Norman
A look at current science and events in space. This includes the latest James Web Space Telescope images and the Artemis moon mission launch.

NOVEMBER
TUESDAY 1st
ROMANS IN DEVON
Qwen Fullarton
An exploration of the role of auxiliaries in the Roman army, delving into their purpose, identities and importance.

TUESDAY 2nd
THE CITIZEN PHAGE LIBRARY - HUNTING FOR HOLES OF HOPE THROUGH CITICLONIC SCIENCE
Professor Ben Temperton
Antibacterial resistance is the third biggest global killer after heart-disease and stroke. In the absence of new antibiotics, Phage Therapy offers promise to use viruses of bacteria as a person-centred, low-cost and effective treatment.

TUESDAY 6th
TORQUAY AND EMANCIPATION IN 1834
Todd Gray
The emancipation of slavery compensated the owners, some of whom chose to relocate to Torbay. This lecture looks at the wider picture as well as focusing on Torquay as a chosen retirement area for former slave owners.

WEDNESDAY 8th
BENEFITS, VICE WOMAN OR WICKED ANTAGONIST? - THE WITCH IN THE FOLKORIC AND FAIRY TALE TRADITIONS
Chris Brooks
Following the evolution of the fairy tale witch from the oral tradition, through the classic literary tradition and onto the Disney inspired modern interpretations, storyteller Chris Brooks asks the question: How and why has the role of the witch changed?

TUESDAY 15th
SIR WALTER RALEIGH – QUEEN ELIZABETH’S FAVOURITE DEVONIAN
Phil Badcott
Travels to lands and downs of the life of Devon’s soldier-statesman, scholar and sea-explorer from his birth in 1552 in East Devon to his death in 1618. Be surprised at the increased developments of our Devonshire genius.

WEDNESDAY 16th
CLENNON LAKE NATURE RESERVE - WORKING PROGRESS AND WILDLIFE SIX YEARS ON
Mike Langman
Torbay’s best wetland site, which was nearly lost through lack of public support. Champion of the Friends of Clennon Lakes Group, Mike Langman, talks about the highs and lows of one of Devon’s local conservation groups, which has helped improve the site, and some of the many wildlife encounters.

TUESDAY 22nd
THE NOTORIOUS DARTMOOR PRISON AND THE AMERICAN PRISONERS-OF-WAR, FROM 1812-1815
Graham Scalter
How and why Dartmoor prison came to be built, where it is, and how, between 1812 and 1815, it housed thousands of American prisoners of war.

WEDNESDAY 23rd
PHILIP PEYTO
BIRDS OF TORQUAY
PHILIP PEYTO
Devon’s most prolific author, Dr Philip Peyto published in excess of 220 books. These included romantic tales, crime fiction, poetry collections, industrial novels, children’s fantasy literature, short stories and gardening books. Living and working in Torquay from 1869 until 1952, he died in 1960 at the age of 98.

TUESDAY 27th
SPECTRUM EARTH - GLOBAL GLACIATION AND THE APPEARANCE OF COMPLEX LIFE ON EARTH
Paul Frakes
A look at the theories and evidence around global glaciation events in our earth’s history and how this may have opened the way for all of complex life on Earth.

WEDNESDAY 30th
THE HISTORY OF DEVON’S BRIDGES
Robert Hesketh
Devon is a county of bridges. This talk explores their history and development, from fords and clapper bridges to modern railway and road bridges, with the aid of simple illustrations.

DECEMBER
TUESDAY 6th
TROPICAL RAINFORESTS
Roger Hamilton
An explanation of how rainforests are organised, and how these forests are so incredibly complex environments.

WEDNESDAY 7th
THE PHYSICS OF PIRACY
Dr Dave Severs
Do pirate movies get the science right? Have you ever wondered if pirates needed gold and silver for more than just their riches? Perhaps humble pirates know more about the physics of piracy than might appear at first sight? Nautical Engineer and thespian, Dr Johny Deep, will take his audience on a morbid journey through the worlds of piracy and physics – unusual Beefellows.

WEDNESDAY 13th
THE CHRISTMAS STAR AND THE ADVENT OF THE CALENDAR
Dave Norman
In this fast-paced talk, engineer and amateur astronomer Dave Norman examines the reality and myth of the Christmas Star, and explores the development and origins of the calendar.

WEDNESDAY 14th
TORQUAY MUSEUM SOCIETY AGM, ANNUAL OPEN FORUM AND CHRISTMAS SOCIAL
Andrew Povey
Devon Society Members debate matters of interest and Non-member Day Membership. The AGM and forum are followed by the annual Christmas Social.

TUESDAY 26th
THE NOTORIOUS DARTMOOR PRISON AND THE AMERICAN PRISONERS-OF-WAR, FROM 1812-1815
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How and why Dartmoor prison came to be built, where it is, and how, between 1812 and 1815, it housed thousands of American prisoners of war.

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TUESDAY 20th
BEHIND THE SCENES AT DARTMOOR SEARCH AND RESCUE
Alan Powsey
Bill Hudson is a Naturalist Bill Hudson shares his butterfly encounters and beautiful photographs from his journeys around Spain.

WEDNESDAY 21st
THE ENGLISH RIVIERA UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK
Melanie Border
English Riviera Geopark Coordinator and author, Mel Border, gives a fascinating account of one of the world’s most beautiful and significant Geoparks, designated in 2007 by UNESCO because of its unique and often spectacular geology and natural environment.

WEDNESDAY 24th
AN ALTERNATIVE HISTORY OF MORRIS DANCING
Robin Springett
An eclectic take on how Morris dancing arrived on these shores and how it became embedded in the English Folk scene. The speaker will describe the various forms of Morris Dancing today, and discuss how it might evolve.

WEDNESDAY 25th
KENTS CAVERN
Nick Povey
Revealing two decades of running Kents Cavern, Nick will also explore its involvement with Tolbay’s UNESCO Global Geopark designation. A fascinating illustrated talk about Kents Cavern’s unique and long association with humankind - maybe the longest human link to any one place on the planet.

TUESDAY 31st
WILDLIFE HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022
John Holloway
Wildlife stories from the south-west and further afield, including ‘jumping bean’ sawflies, Lunar Hornet Moths and wild Hamsters.

JANUARY 2023
TUESDAY 20th
MY BUTTERFLY MEMORIES – SPAIN
Bill Hudson
Bill Hudson shares his butterfly encounters and beautiful photographs from his journeys around Spain.

TUESDAY 24th
ADVENTURES IN FILMMAKING WITH AN AWARD-WINNING FILM DIRECTOR
Alex Thorpe
A fascinating insight into the career of an award-winning Director, including his creative influences, working with Reece Shearsmith, creating an animated opening titles sequence for a horror anthology film for Neil Marshall and many other Director’s films, and how he made a radio featured in The New York Times, and what’s next.

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OCTOBER 2022